Music to bring together five different Anabaptist groups

In a rare public event, five different Amish and Mennonite groups will meet to share their distinct musical traditions at Martindale Mennonite Fellowship Center, Ephrata, on Monday, May 7, 7:00 PM.

“Music in Worship among Five Anabaptist Groups” will include members of Old Order Amish, Old Order River Brethren and Groffdale, Lancaster and Weaverland Mennonite Conferences.

“It will show our differences, but also our common heritage,” said David Sauder, a Historical Society employee and song leader who helped to organize the evening.

Because the songs are meant to be sung with people—not performed—everyone attending will be invited to sing as each group leads music from its faith tradition. Song sheets will be provided.

Some songs will be led multiple times in different styles. For example, the hymn known to Lancaster Conference Mennonites as “Our Father God, Thy Name We Praise,” comes from the Amish community’s lob (pronounced “lobe”) or “praise” song—always the second hymn in an Amish service.

One way the musical styles differ is in the number of notes per syllable, Sauder said. Amish sing up to six different notes per syllable while Groffdale Mennonites and the Old Order River Brethren might sing three.

Leaders will sit at a “singers’ table”—a table surrounded by benches on three sides that is placed at the front of an Old Order Mennonite or Amish meetinghouse. Traditionally, the bishop, pastor and deacons conduct a service from the end of the table and invited lay leaders sit on the sides.

Some of the groups will lead singing in English, others in German. The Amish sing from the German Ausbund, the oldest hymnal in continuous use among Reformation groups. Groffdale Mennonite Conference uses Ein Unpartheyisches Gesang-Buch, first published in 1804, which replaced the Ausbund in Mennonite churches in Lancaster County.

Martindale Mennonite Fellowship Center is on Martindale Road, about a mile east of Hinkletown, Pa. The event is free and open to the public.

Book signing

Author Lisa Weaver and illustrators Judith Rempel Smucker and Julie Kauffman will give a short presentation, answer questions and sign their 2011 book On the Zwieback Trail at Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, Saturday, April 7, from 2:30–4:00 PM.

On the Zwieback Trail, available at the Society’s Book and Museum Store, is “an alphabet of stories, recipes and historical events” from Russian Mennonite culture.

The book signing will include Faspa—an afternoon tea popular with Russian Mennonites.

Staff changes

by Rolando Santiago

Effective January 1, 2012, Lowell Brown is serving as director of communications, moving out of his director of advancement role. The new role includes editing the Society’s quarterly magazine, Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage, and its bimonthly newsletter, The Mirror. He will begin as editor of PMH with the April 2012 issue.

The restructuring of staff roles also includes giving Carolyn Wenger, former PMH editor, the opportunity to increase her time as museum curator and archivist, which she has longed for, while at the same time remaining available to support publications.
Upcoming Lancaster Roots Events
Lancaster cultural events organized by Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society (LMHS) and the 1719 Hans Herr House. All events meet at LMHS unless otherwise specified. For a complete list, go to www.LancasterRoots.org.

Thursday, April 19, 7:30 AM–5:30 PM
Field Trip: Fort McHenry & Baltimore’s Inner Harbor $ R

Thursday, April 19, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM
Field Trip: Pennsylvania State Library and Archives $ R

Friday, April 20, 7:30 AM–4:30 PM
Field Trip: Port to Paradise $ R

Friday, April 20, 8:00 AM–noon $ R
Field Trip: 1710 Pequea Settlement

Saturday, April 21, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM
Deep Roots: Using DNA to Unlock Your Family’s Ancient Past
Dig into your family history at the 33rd annual Lancaster Family History Conference. Keynote address by scientist Darvin L. Martin; more than a dozen seminar by leading researchers. Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center. $ R

Monday, May 7, 7:00 PM
Music in Worship among Five Anabaptist Groups
Learn about five distinct musical traditions from members of Old Order Amish, Old Order River Brethren and Weaverland, Groffdale and Lancaster Mennonite Conferences. Martindale Mennonite Fellowship Center. $ R

Saturday, May 12, 10:00 AM–noon
Class: Telling Your Life Story
This Mothers’ Day, learn new approaches to recording your life story with oral historian Jean Kilheffer Hess. $ R

Saturday, June 9, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM
Field Trip: Three Histories of Lancaster County CATCH glimpses of interactions among African, European and Native Americans in Lancaster County. $ R

Saturday, June 16, 8:00 AM–3:00 PM
Field Trip: Amish Businesses without Electricity Witness challenges and innovations of modern businesses within the Amish community. $ R

Saturday, June 16, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM
Class: Blacksmithing Learn to use an anvil and coal-fed forge at the 1719 Hans Herr House. Reserve by calling (717) 464-4438. $

Saturday, June 30, 7:45 AM–4:00 PM
Field Trip: Historic Religious Communities Experience the history of Lititz Moravian Church, Ephrata Cloisters and the Cloistered Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary. $ R

Saturday, July 14, 8:00 AM–noon
300th Anniversary of the Ferree-LeFevre Huguenot Settlement
Follow in the footsteps of Lancaster County’s second group of European settlers. $ R

LeFevre Huguenot Settlement
Follow in the footsteps of Lancaster County’s second group of European settlers.

Community News
Valentine Metzler descendants 275th Anniversary—June 14 & 15, 2013, Metzler Mennonite Church and Jacob Metzler homestead, Lancaster, Pa. Send genealogical information to cfmetzler@aol.com. For additional information or to assist with this event, contact lemmetzler@verizon.net.

The Mirror (ISSN 0738-7237) is a bimonthly newsletter published by the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society; Lowell Brown, editor. Phone: (717) 393-9745; fax: (717) 393-8751; e-mail: mirror@lmhs.org. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to The Mirror, Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602-1499.
Director’s Reflections: Building Community

What does it take to build community today?

The early church practiced an egalitarian and just form of community as it sought to follow Jesus’s teachings. Acts 2:44-45 says, “All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.”

For most of us in North American congregations, this is a high standard to achieving.

But there are surprising historical and current examples that can help us learn how to build community.

In the recently released PBS documentary, The Amish, I was reminded of a group of people for whom individual achievement must bend to build community. The Amish shows a community that rejects the popular values of progress, consumerism and upward mobility.

The day after I watched The Amish, I listened to Howard Zehr and Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz talk about the restorative-justice movement at a meeting sponsored by Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. I was struck anew by the emphasis that restorative justice places on making perpetrators of crime accountable to their victims.

In Widening the Circle: Experiments in Christian Discipleship, Joanna Shenk features nineteen stories of people who attempt to grow communities in the radical spirit of Jesus. From the Mennonite House in Atlanta that Vincent Harding and Rose Mary Freeney Harding led in support of racial justice, to the Maple City Health Care Center in Goshen, Indiana, that created holistic healthcare with low-income communities, to the Alterna Community in LaGrange, Georgia, that invited recent immigrants into a caring community, we glean practices for building community today.

To build community we must hold each other accountable, restore broken relationships and reach out to those who hurt.

Selected recent library acquisitions

**Religion**


*God stories. Volume six.* The Regional Church of Lancaster County, 2010 (BV4810 .G63 2010b)


Mast, Gerald J. *Go to church, change the world: Christian community as calling.* Herald Press, 2012 (BV4523 .M37 2012)


**Biography/Genealogy**


Library looking up!

- The LMHS library had over 1,800 visitors in 2011—the highest number since 2005.
- The members-only obituaries page at www.lmhs.org received almost 10,000 hits.
- Income from genealogy research was nearly $5,000—the highest total in more than a decade.
See inside for:
- Music draws Mennonite variety
- Zwieback book signing
- Library looking up!

Volunteer for the Bookworm Frolic!
For over thirty years, this four-day outdoor sale has inspired book-lovers and has given new life to more than 40,000 books a year. Have a great time with friends and support a Mennonite church organization.

Needed Immediately
**Volunteer Coordinator.** Spend 8–15 hours per month helping to recruit individuals and community, youth and Sunday school groups to help with the August event. Contact Peggy Erb at (717) 393-9745 or perb@lmhs.org.

**Book Sorters.** Help to sort books for the sale. Sortings are scheduled each month on the first Wednesday afternoon; the first Thursday evening; the second Monday evening; the third Wednesday afternoon; and at other times by request. Contact David Sauder at (717) 393-9745 or usedbooks@lmhs.org.

Needed during the Frolic (August 15-18, 2012)
- Setting up tables and covering them with plastic
- Setting out books
- Parking cars
- Running cash registers or counting books as people check out
- Making or selling food
- Keeping tables organized as books sell
- Covering tables in the evening
- Drying and folding plastic
- Cleaning up

Contact Peggy Erb at (717) 393-9745.

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Old News
Volunteers Arlene Hurst and Sheri Flemming (right), as well as Roy Boylan and Kara Lindley (not pictured), are scanning and indexing Lancaster newspapers from the late 1800s for records of deaths, marriages and anniversaries. The information will be digitized for use by family history researchers at the LMHS library.

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